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ACTIVITY SHEET 23

Word Origins

Have you ever wondered where certain words came from or how some words have changed their meanings over periods of time? All the way through the activity sheets, the word *clue* has been used. Did you ever wonder where that word came from?

Clue comes from the Old English word *cleowen,* meaning “ball.” Stories are told about people of long ago who unwound balls of thread as they traveled through underground passages. The thread helped them find their way back to the entrance. Today, a clue is something that helps one find a way to solve a problem.

Did you ever wonder where the word *lunatic* came from?

The Latin word *luna* means “moon.” People in medieval times thought that the moon affected peoples’ minds. They referred to a crazy, or “moonstruck,” person as a *lunatic.*

Think of how many stories you have read or heard about people who did strange things when the moon was full.

What do u think the word *etymology* means?

The first part of the word, *etymon,* is a Greek word meaning “true or original meaning.” The last part of the word comes from the Greek word *logia,* meaning “study or science.” So the word *etymology* means the science or study of original meanings.

CLUE Knowing how a word is formed or where it comes from is a valuable skill in increasing your vocabulary.

If you come across a word that has been made by combining words and/or word parts and can recognize the parts, you can often determine the word’s meaning and pronunciation.

**1. Study these Greek and Latin combining forms and there meanings. For each definition that follows, write the correct combination. The underlined words will give you helpful clues.**

Chrono = time biblio = book ology = science of

micro = small bio = life phone = sound

photo = light meter = measuer hydro = water

astro = star graph = written thermo = heat

tele = far off scope = look



NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PERIOD\_\_\_\_ DATE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Activity Sheet 23 continued

1. This is an instrument used to look at things far off.

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1. This instrument is used to measure time in navigation.

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1. This instrument carries the sound of voices to far-off places.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Add *y* to this word and it means written story of a person’s life.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Add y to this word and it means a written list of books.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. This instrument sounds under water. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. This device is used to measure heat. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. This instrument measures small distances. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Your camera may have a lens that sees light far off.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. When you study the science of the stars, you study\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Many times when people create a new product, they make up a name. pretend you are marketing a new product and, using the word parts in question 1, give it a name.**

1. an instrument that measures sound on the stars

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. an instrument that measures the heat of the stars

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. the science of studying life on the stars

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. a small instrument that measures heat and writes it down

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_